2. (Twice Amended) A system [according to claim 1] for ablating tissue within a body comprising

a guide element for introduction into a body,

a region of energy emitting material on the guide element, and

control means for electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy, electronically altering energy transmission from the region between transmission as a zone of uniform polarity and transmission as zones of alternating polarity in response to a first input command, and [wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the control means] electronically [varies] varying the length of the region where emission occurs between a first non-zero length and a second non-zero length in response to a second input command.

E1

6. (Twice Amended) A system [according to claim 4] for ablating tissue within a body comprising

a guide element for introduction into a body defining an axis,

an array of energy transmitting areas spaced apart along the axis of the guide element, each area including [wherein the areas comprise] energy transmitting material extending helically [wrapped about and] along the axis of the guide body, and

E2

control means responsive to a prescribed input command for electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy and electronically altering energy transmission from the region between transmission as a zone of uniform polarity and transmission as zones of alternating polarity in response to the prescribed input command.



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13. (Twice Amended) A system [according to claim 12] for ablating tissue within a body comprising

a guide element for introduction into a body,

at least one energy transmitting electrode defining an energy transmitting region on the guide element, and

control means for electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy, selectively electronically altering the energy transmitting characteristics of the region to block transmission from portion of the region while allowing transmission from another portion of the region in response to a first input command, and [wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the control means] electronically [varies] varying the length of the region where transmission is [either blocked or] allowed between a first non-zero length and a second non-zero length in response to a second input command.

14. (Twice Amended) A system [according to claim 12] for ablating tissue within a body comprising

a guide element for introduction into a body,

at least one energy transmitting electrode defining an energy transmitting region on the guide element, and

control means responsive to a prescribed input command for electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy and for selectively electronically altering the energy transmitting characteristics of the region to [wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the control means electronically alters the energy transmitting characteristics of the region to] allow transmission from spaced apart first and second portions of the region while blocking transmission from a third portion of the region located between the first and second portions.

18. (Twice Amended) A system [according to claim 12] for ablating tissue within a body comprising

a guide element for introduction into a body,

at least one energy transmitting electrode [wherein the at least one electrode comprises energy transmitting material] extending helically [wrapped about and] along the axis the guide element to define an energy transmitting region, and

control means responsive to a prescribed input command for electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy and for selectively electronically altering the energy transmitting characteristics of the region to block transmission from portion of the region while allowing transmission from another portion of the region.

28. (Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body, comprising:

a guide element for introduction into a body;

a plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes on the guide element; and

a controller operably connected to the plurality of electrodes and to a source of tissue ablating energy, the controller being adapted to receive predetermined input commands and to electrically connect the plurality of electrodes to the source of tissue ablating energy, the controller including switching means for selectively disconnecting at least one of the electrodes within the plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes from the source of tissue ablating energy in response to a first predetermined input command such that two electrodes are electrically connected to the source of tissue ablating energy and the at least one disconnected electrode is between the two connected electrodes.

30. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim [29] 28, wherein the at least one disconnected electrode is located within the plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes such that a plurality of contiguous electrodes are electrically connected to the source of tissue ablating energy.

Please add claims 33-40 as follows

33. A system for ablating tissue within a body, comprising:

a guide element,

at least first, second and third contiguous electrodes carried by the guide element arranged such that the second electrode is located between the first and third electrodes, and

a control device operable in a first mode to simultaneously electronically couple the first, second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the first, second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy.

34. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the control device is operable in a second mode to block transmission from one of the first, second and third electrodes while simultaneously electronically coupling the other of the first, second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the other of the first, second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy.

35. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the control device is operable in a second mode to block transmission from the first electrode while simultaneously electronically coupling the second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy.

36. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the control device is operable in a second mode to block transmission from the second electrode while simultaneously electronically coupling the first and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the first and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy.

37. A system as claimed in claim 33, further comprising:

an indifferent electrode adapted to be located on a patient,

wherein the first, second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit energy to the indifferent electrode.

38. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first and second electrodes are separated solely by a region of nonconducting material and the second and third electrode are separated solely by a region of nonconducting material.

39. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the guide element comprises a portion of a catheter.

40. A system as claimed in claim 38, wherein at least one of the electrodes comprises a helical electrode.

## REMARKS

### I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 2, 6, 13, 14, 18, 28 and 30 have been amended. Claims 29 and 31 have been canceled. Claims 33-40 have been added. Claims 1-20, 28, 30 and 32-40 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The amendments and remarks herein are in response to the final Office Action dated December 10, 1997, and the Advisory Action dated April 15, 1998.

Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a copy of the Declaration of David K. Swanson under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 (the "Swanson Declaration") that was filed in the unentered amendment filed March 27, 1998. The Swanson Declaration is discussed below where applicable.